

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 2516

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise for the purpose of seeking unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to Calendar No. 189, H.R. 2516.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I regret that objection has been raised in this context.

Mr. President, if the Senator will yield for a question, Does his objection to consideration of H.R. 2516 mean that the Senate will not take up this bill in this session?

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, that is correct.

Mr. ABRAHAM. I am disappointed over that decision, Mr. President, for passage of H.R. 2516 would have provided my State of Michigan with approximately \$200 million more than we averaged under ISTEA. However, I stand by ready to assist the chairman in ensuring all States receive a fair and equitable return on their gas tax dollar.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING SENATOR ROBERTS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to say what an excellent job you are doing as Presiding Officer. I understand you are fast approaching the amount of time serving in the chair where you will receive the "Golden Gavel" recognition. I look forward to being able to come to the floor and pay tribute to you when that time is acquired.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 381, 428 through 439, 444 through 447, 451 through 453, 456 and 466. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating to these nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Saul N. Ramirez, Jr., of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Nancy H. Rubin, of New York, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

A. Peter Burleigh, of California, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Bill Richardson, of New Mexico, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Richard Sklar, of California, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for UN Management and Reform.

Betty Eileen King, of Maryland, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

Kirk K. Robertson, of Virginia, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Terrence J. Brown, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Agency for International Development.

Mark Erwin, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 1999.

Harriet C. Babbitt, of Arizona, to be a Deputy Administrator of the Agency for International Development.

Thomas H. Fox, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Agency for International Development.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Cheryl F. Halpern, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 1999. (Reappointment)

Carl Spielvogel, of New York, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 1999. (Reappointment)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Linda Kay Breathitt, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2004.

Curt Herbert, Jr., of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 1999.

THE JUDICIARY

John M. Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Anita M. Josey of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Judge of the Superior Court

of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Betty Eileen King, of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Seth Waxman, of the District of Columbia, to be Solicitor General of the United States.

THE JUDICIARY

Stanley Marcus, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Jerome B. Friedman, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Norman K. Moon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

NOMINATION OF CURTIS L. HEBERT, JR.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today the Senate is sending two very distinguished and qualified new Commissioners to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I am pleased that my good friend Curtis L. Hebert, Jr. of Pascagoula, MS, is one of them.

Curt has served the State of Mississippi as a member of the Public Service Commission for several years. During that time, he has demonstrated the ability to balance the diverse utility interests in our State. This is no easy task. Mississippi is the home to both public and private power companies, PUHCA's and providers of all sizes. Curt has proven that he has the skills necessary to address the needs of each of these entities, while keeping the best interest of the consumer in mind.

As a former member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I certainly appreciate the high standard that FERC nominees are held to during committee consideration. Throughout the nomination process, Curt has demonstrated that he has not only the knowledge, but the determination and skills to get the job done. He has been a responsible and able steward of the utility industry in Mississippi. I expect that he will serve the FERC and our Nation with the same enthusiasm and foresight.

We all must recognize that electric utility deregulation is on the horizon. How and when a new system will be created remains to be seen. What is certain, however, is that the FERC will be instrumental in guiding Congress toward competition in the utility industry. I am confident that Curt has the experience and insight necessary to help us reach the right balance of interests. Most importantly, Curt understands what deregulation means on the State level.

There is no industry as complex as the utility world—and none that impacts the lives of Americans more directly every day. The challenge ahead are great and must be tackled head on. There is no denying that the FERC Commissioners have their work cut out for them.

Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has unanimously confirmed Curt Hebert as a member of the FERC, ensuring that the future of the electric utility industry is in good hands. I congratulate him on this accomplishment and wish him the best of luck in the future.

NOMINATION OF JERRY FRIEDMAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I commend the majority leader for deciding to take up the nomination of Jerry Friedman to serve as a judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. Judge Friedman's nomination was received by the Judiciary Committee on June 26, 1997. He appeared before us during a nomination hearing on October 28 and was reported favorably out of the committee on November 6.

From June 1985 to January 1991, Judge Friedman sat on the bench of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court in Virginia Beach, VA. Since 1991, he has served as a judge for the Virginia Beach Circuit Court. The American Bar Association gave Judge Friedman a unanimous "well-qualified" evaluation—its highest rating.

I would like to congratulate both Judge Friedman and his family. I look forward to his service on the U.S. District Court.

NOMINATION OF NORMAN MOON

I am delighted that the majority leader has taken up the nomination of Norman Moon to serve as a U.S. District Court judge for the Western District of Virginia. Judge Moon has been sitting on the bench of Virginia State courts since 1974. He is currently serving as the chief judge for the Virginia State Appellate Court—a position which he has held since May 1, 1993.

Judge Moon has been a member of several legal and judicial-related organizations, including the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, the State-Federal Judicial Council for Virginia, and the National Council of Chief Judges.

We received Judge Moon's nomination on October 8, 1997. He appeared before the Judiciary Committee during a hearing on October 28 and he was reported favorably out of the Committee on November 6.

I congratulate Judge Moon and his family on his accomplishment and I look forward to his service as a U.S. District Court judge.

I would like to note that the nomination process experienced by Judge Moon has been the exception, not the rule, for this year. I hope that more judicial nominees will enjoy a similar experience in the future.

NOMINATION OF STANLEY MARCUS

I am delighted that the majority leader has decided to take up the nomination of Stanley Marcus to serve as a judge for the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Marcus is a graduate of Queens College of the City University of New York and the Harvard Law School.

Since 1985, Judge Marcus has served as a Federal district court judge for the

Southern District of Florida. Prior to his Federal judgeship, Judge Marcus was employed as a special attorney, deputy chief and chief for the organized crime and racketeering section of the U.S. Department of Justice Detroit strike force.

The committee received Judge Marcus' nomination on September 25, 1997. He appeared before us during a nominations hearing on October 28 and was reported favorably out of the Judiciary Committee on November 6.

I congratulate Judge Marcus and his family, and look forward to his service on the U.S. Court of Appeals. Additionally, I would like to commend my fellow committee members on the expediency of this nomination. If all judicial nominations were advanced as efficiently as Mr. Marcus', the vacancy crisis facing the Federal judiciary would be easily solved.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business until 7:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a withdrawal and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 7, 1997, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2367. An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of such veterans.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 858) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 967. An act to prohibit the use of United States funds to provide for the participation of certain Chinese officials in international conferences, programs, and activities and to provide that certain Chinese officials shall be ineligible to receive visas and excluded from admission to the United States.

H.R. 2358. An act to provide for improved monitoring of human rights violations in the People's Republic of China.

H.R. 2386. An act to implement the provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act concerning the stability and security of Taiwan and United States cooperation with Taiwan on the development and acquisition of defensive military articles.

H.R. 2570. An act to condemn those officials of the Chinese Communist Party, the Government of the People's Republic of China, and other persons who are involved in the enforcement of forced abortions by preventing such persons from entering or remaining in the United States.

H.R. 2605. An act to require the United States to oppose the making of concessional loan by international financial institutions to any entity in the People's Republic of China.

At 7:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2616. An act to amend titles VI and X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and expand charter schools.

H.R. 2647. An act to ensure that commercial activities of the People's Liberation Army of China or any Communist Chinese military company in the United States are monitored and are subject to the authorities under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

H.J. Res. 101. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1998, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.